

# Hastings Coulee Scientific Natural Area

## An evening hike through one of the DNR's newest SNA



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Photo from FMR website

A panoramic view of the Sand Coulee, a dry barrens prairie remnant southeast of Hastings, Minnesota, that local landowners, Friends of the Mississippi River, and the DNR are restoring.

**Where:** Hastings Coulee Scientific Natural Area  
**Date/Time:** June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 6-8PM  
**Leaders:** Karen Schik (Ecologist, FMR)  
Tom Lewanski (Conservation Director for FMR)  
Dave Crawford (MNNPS Member and "retired"  
DNR naturalist from Wild River SP)

Come join other MNNPS members on an evening hike into one of the DNR's newest Scientific and Natural Area. Hastings Sand Coulee is a dry sand prairie about 80 acres in size located just beyond the southern edge of Hastings. As the largest of a few sand gravel prairies left in Dakota County it is home to rare plants like James' polanisia (endangered) and sea-beach needle grass.

Hastings Sand Coulee SNA is situated in a sandy ravine or coulee formed by a tributary stream to the Vermillion River. The stream cuts through a large expanse of Des Moines Lobe outwash deposit, which is generally characterized by sandy and gravelly soils. The steep slopes of the coulee offer the most topographic relief in the otherwise level agricultural landscape of this area. In addition to the dry prairie, the SNA contains areas of dry oak woodland that were once savanna.

**This is a joint field trip with Friends of the Mississippi River, and will be limited to 18 MNNPS members.**